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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Gary W. Ferrell et al

U.S. Serial No: 09/109,460

Group Art Unit: 3744

Date Filed: 02 July 1998

Examiner: S. Gravini

Title: "IMPROVED CHEMICAL DRYING AND CLEANING SYSTEM"

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action, mailed 8 September 1999, on the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments to the application.

In the claims:

For convenient review, all pending claims are presented here. Claims that are new or are amended herein are indicated by an asterisk (*). Add claims 27-44, which were canceled under restriction in the parent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/034,369, and which read as follows.

1. A method for drying a workpiece that has been immersed in a first processing liquid, the method comprising the steps of:

after the workpiece has been withdrawn from the first liquid, transferring to least one exposed surface of the workpiece a second processing liquid, where the second liquid has a surface tension that is less than 17 dynes/cm, and has a second liquid density that is much greater than density of the first liquid;